



# DUTY OF CARE POLICY

## AT COBRAM SECONDARY COLLEGE

*The school of choice for the Cobram Community*

### **STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

Cobram Secondary College believes every student deserves a safe and positive learning experience where they are engaged and supported to reach their full potential.

The College adheres to the principles of Australian democracy and takes into account the diversity of all children and makes reasonable efforts to accommodate them. This includes (but is not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ) individuals, and children who are vulnerable.

The College is committed to creating a child safe environment protecting children from all forms of abuse and neglect.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Cobram Secondary College owe to our students and members of the school community who visit and use the school premises.

### **POLICY**

“Duty of care” is a legal obligation that requires schools to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm, which can include personal injury (physical or psychological) or damage to property. The reasonable steps that our school may decide to take in response to a potential risk or hazard will depend on the circumstances of the risk.

Our school has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, including:

- Bullying Prevention
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Child Safe Standards
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations (including Mandatory Reporting)
- External Providers (including RTOS delivering VET/VCAL)
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors

Staff at our school understand that school activities involve different levels of risk and that particular care may need to be taken to support younger students or students with additional needs. Our school also understands that it is responsible for ensuring that the school premises are kept in good repair and will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of members of our community suffering injury or damage because of the state of the premises.

School staff, parents, carers and students are encouraged to speak to the principal to raise any concerns about risks or hazards at our school, or our duty of care obligations.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Duty of Care](#)
- <https://www.cobramsc.vic.edu.au/policies>

### **REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy was last updated in 2019 and is scheduled for review in 2022.